

Tavlarides, Mark  
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Good Afternoon,

BGR Group represents the Republic of Azerbaijan. I am writing to you today to alert you to an alarming increase in Iranian pressure and destabilizing actions against Azerbaijan, in retaliation for their close relationship with Israel.

As you may know, in recent weeks, Iran has made a series of inflammatory statements and actions, including military exercises on Azerbaijan's border, to try to pressure Azerbaijan to break its relationship with Israel. Additionally, dozens of Iranian vehicles have repeatedly illegally crossed into Azerbaijan over the past several months, smuggling fuel and drugs over the border. Israel was among the first countries to recognize Azerbaijan's independence in 1991, and their relationship has been close ever since. Israel and Azerbaijan are close security partners, and Iran has long suspected Baku of providing cover for covert Israeli operations in Iran.

For more information on how Tehran seeks to undermine the Azerbaijan-Israeli relationship, and for suggestions on steps the U.S. government can take to support this vital relationship, please read [Azerbaijan's Defiant Message to Iran](#), an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal by Hudson Institute senior fellow Michael Doran.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if you would like to engage with the Azerbaijan Embassy about their close partnership with Israel, their efforts to counter Iranian influence, or their work to promote peace and stability in the region.

Best,  
Mark

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